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Danes Begin Security Drive as Activists and Papers Flout Military Secrecy

Dispatch of The Times, London

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Nov. 8—Within the last few days, Danish counterespionage authorities have impounded two left-wing periodicals, arrested seven young activists and charged two leading editors of a Copenhagen newspaper with having published secret military information.

The sudden security drive appears intended to improve a public image that has been undermined in recent months by young activists, who have shown a startling ability to publicly expose weaknesses in security arrangements.

The security drive started soon after students demonstrated late last month to expose a secret military listening post that had been installed in a basement of Copenhagen University.

In the confusion, a car removing documents from the post during the demonstration drove off at high speed, knocked down a policeman and then went against the traffic in a one-way street.

The gleeful tone used by much of the Danish press in reporting this changed quickly when security officers arrested seven activists, aged 19 to 24, and charged them with possessing 10 pounds of TNT and planning to sabotage military installations.

Then, last Tuesday, security officials raided the offices of a pro-Hanoi periodical, Vietnam Solidaritet, to seize its latest issue because it contained what the officials termed secret military information.

The move was unsuccessful presumably because the leader of the military intelligence service, Col. Erik Fournais, told Denmark's national news agency of the raid several hours before it took place. Colonel Fournais later denied that he had done this, but the news agency contends that its report was correct.

On Wednesday, the police impounded a full-page matrix from the coming issue of a left-wing periodical, Politisk Revy, also on the ground that it contained secret military information.

No action was taken Wednesday when the Communist daily newspaper, Land og Folk, published the same information,

giving the general locality of listening posts used to monitor Eastern European broadcasts.

However, when an independent daily newspaper, Information, appeared on Thursday it carried in facsimile the offending page from Vietnam Solidaritet and the police responded by charging the editor with having published secret military information.

Editor a War Hero

The editor, George Outze, was a leader of Denmark's underground movement in World War II. His newspaper is independent politically.

Today, Torben Krogh, news editor of Information, was charged with having published the text of the article that led to the seizure at Politisk Revy.

Both editors said that they had published the articles to show that it was absurd to seize the two periodicals on the basis of material that was already widely known by the Danish public.

Bornholms Tidende, a provincial newspaper, carried a detailed report today about a monitoring post on Bornholm Island. The report was prepared with the assistance of the local military security officer, Maj. H. V. Juergensen, who said there was no reason to overdo secrecy. He called for common sense from both activists and the counter-espionage authorities.

Another Copenhagen newspaper, B. T., reported today that another supposedly secret monitoring post, at Gedser, had been described in detail by a popular weekly magazine 11 years ago. This post could hardly be a secret, the paper said, since it is beside a main

highway and in full view of the car ferries that sail between Denmark and East Germany.

Earlier this year, a Polish defector was charged with spying. During his trial he told the court that he had gone to a police station three times to give himself up, but was twice told to "come back later—the man you should talk to is not here." He found it was impossible to get himself arrested until he had completed a confession in English, which he then took to a police station and gave to an officer on duty.

In another incident involving

security, a Copenhagen journalist took over the telephone of the Danish police counterespionage service for a night. He did this by asking the Copenhagen telephone company to refer all calls to the counterespionage number to his own private number. This is a much-used service provided by telephone companies in Denmark, and the change was made without question.

During the night one call for security came to him. He told the caller that he had "the wrong number" and then canceled the call-referral arrangement.